TO: Chamber of Progress
FR: Morning Consult
DT: November 2024
RE: Autonomous Vehicle Survey Findings

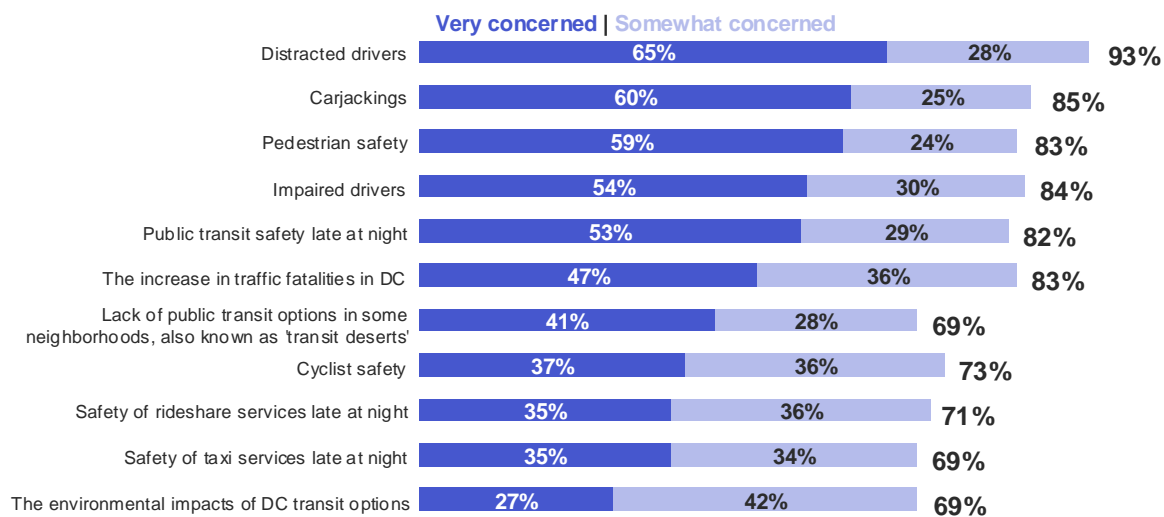**CHAMBER OF PROGRESS**

Morning Consult ran a survey, on behalf of Chamber of Progress, on how D.C. residents view transportation safety in the district and the perceived impact that autonomous vehicles (AVs) could have for residents and transportation safety at-large. The results show that **residents of the district are very concerned about transportation safety and are open to exploring new technologies** that could lessen traffic collisions and fatalities. D.C. residents are supportive of researching AVs as a possible solution to their traffic concerns, and **most residents believe access to AVs would both benefit underserved groups and help fill in transit gaps around the city**.

Key Findings

- D.C. residents are concerned about many issues regarding transportation in the city, especially distracted drivers (93%), carjackings (85%), and impaired drivers (85%).

Very concerned | Somewhat concerned

	Very concerned	Somewhat concerned	Total
Distracted drivers	65%	28%	93%
Carjackings	60%	25%	85%
Pedestrian safety	59%	24%	83%
Impaired drivers	54%	30%	84%
Public transit safety late at night	53%	29%	82%
The increase in traffic fatalities in DC	47%	36%	83%
Lack of public transit options in some neighborhoods, also known as 'transit deserts'	41%	28%	69%
Cyclist safety	37%	36%	73%
Safety of rideshare services late at night	35%	36%	71%
Safety of taxi services late at night	35%	34%	69%
The environmental impacts of DC transit options	27%	42%	69%

*Chart is sorted by % very concerned

- With D.C. residents concerned about transportation in the city, **a vast majority (84%) of residents believe D.C. should encourage exploration of new technologies to lessen traffic collisions and fatalities**, with a plurality (42%) supporting AVs as a potential solution.

- AVs are not only seen as a way to lessen traffic collisions and fatalities, but **majorities of residents also believe access to AVs would benefit a wide range of groups and types of commuters**. D.C. residents say that the availability of AVs would benefit people... who commute at atypical times (76%), are elderly (73%), live in neighborhoods underserved by Metrorail and Metrobus (68%), are disabled (66%), who are female commuters travelling by themselves (66%), and who are parents with their children (59%).

- **A majority (58%) of residents believe AVs could help fill transit accessibility gaps** in areas where the D.C. metro has yet to expand

Key Findings Continued…

- When provided a more detailed understanding of how AVs utilize LiDAR, or Light Detection and Ranging, D.C. residents agree that AVs will eventually outperform human drivers in certain circumstances, with majorities believing AVs will eventually be better at following speed limits than the average human driver (82%), surpass the average human driver's response time to sudden road obstructions (67%), and surpass the average human driver's ability to be aware of everything surrounding their vehicle on all sides at any given time (61%).

- After learning more about AVs efficiency and lower emissions output because most AVs are electric, **a majority (67%) of residents agree that D.C. should allow research into deploying AVs** as part of its commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2045.

Methodology:

This survey was conducted between October 23rd – November 4th, 2024 among a sample of 215 adults living in D.C. (referred to as residents in this memo). The interviews were conducted online and the data was weighted to approximate a target sample of D.C. adults \based on gender, age, race/ethnicity, and educational attainment. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 7 percentage points.